(b) whether Government are aware that there is no direct flight to Trivandrum from Delhi for more than two months; if so, the reasons for it and how long it would continue like this; and

(c) whether as promised a flight to Delhi in the morning from Trivandrum would be operated soon in addition to what was there previously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) 58.55% of Indian Airlines flights were on time during the last three months; *i.e.* April, 2006 to June, 2006. Of the 41.45% delays and cancellation, 2.86% were due to commercial, operations, engineering, ground support, surface transport, stores related reasons, 2.30% due to inclement weather, airport facilities etc., and the remaining 36.29% due to consequential delays.

(b) Due to shortage of aircraft and operating crew, Indian Airlines has had no choice but to curtail/restructure many of the flights in its network. The flight IC 167 scheduled to operate on Delhi-Mumbai-Trivandrum route is temporarily operating on Mumbai-Trivandrum sector effective from 6th April, 2006 as a part of this curtailment/restructuring exercise. Passengers travelling from Delhi to Trivandrum are provided connections via Mumbai. Indian Airlines plans to restore the normal operation of this flight as soon the aircraft availability improves.

(c) Presently, Indian Airlines is unable to operate a morning flight from Trivandrum to Delhi due to shortage of aircraft and operating crew.

Development of Trivandrum airport

725. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the development of Trivandrum International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposal to construct a modern new international terminal with aerobridges, apron and city side infrastructure, car park etc.

(c) AAI has approved Rs. 245 crore for this purpose.

Improvement in Infrastructure of pilot training schools

726. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the lack of infrastructure and instructors in Indian pilot training schools is taking a toll on pilot training education in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that 50 pilot training schools in the country have closed the shop in the last six months and India is left with just 30 pilot training schools now; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government to improve the infrastructure in Indian pilot training schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As of now threre are 40 flying clubs/institutes approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Out of these, 17 are actively engaged in flying training upto Commercial Pilot Licence Level.

(c) Besides upgradation and modernisation of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA), Rae Bareli, the Government has issued a Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) to facilitate the availability of more Chief Flight Instructors (CFI), Flight Instructor Incharge (FII) and also take Qualified Flight Instructors (QFI) from Defence services. A CAR has also been issued alllowing pilots holding. Flight Instructor Rating to impart training upto 65 years of age subject to medical fitness and other conditions. Further, the flying clubs are being provided with aircraft by DGCA and Aero Club of India on need basis.